

Solar Cooking News



Volume 6
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Solar Cooking is growing steadily C.Thomas, chairman

Foundation Solar Cooking The Netherlands (SCN) closely cooperates

with
Wilde Ganzen
(CBF keur) in Hilversum



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News reports about and images of refugees in the Horn of Africa are more or less a daily feature. Fortunately, so far we have not received any reports that the people with whom we cooperate have been hit by drought and food shortages. In consultation with Wilde Ganzen, SCN has approached Stichting Vluchteling (Foundation for Refugees) with a proposal to introduce and distribute solar cookers, hay baskets and wood-saving cooking appliances.

Our Solar Cooking projects are growing steadily! **Solar Connect Association (SCA)** in the South of **Uganda** is now financially independent after four years of subsidies. The 1st and 2nd quarters of 2011 even show a modest profit! A grand achievement that shows that it can be done! The next challenge is to make the public at large aware of **Integrated Sustainable Solar Cooking (ISSC)**. The production centre will have to expand when the demand for ISSC cooking appliances starts to grow regionally as well as nationally. The new ISSC centre for the Kampala region will start public promotion, distribution and training towards end October 2011. All this thanks to support from donors and Wilde Ganzen (who grants a bonus of 55%)!



Integrated Sustainable Solar Cooking (ISSC)

In **Ethiopia**, SCN's financial support for **PISDA** has now, after five years, been completed and handed over to HoA-REC/N. Our partner HoA-REC/N is actively engaged in getting three new solar cooking centres off the ground with the help of SCN and EU subsidies. In the coming three years, no less than twenty ISSC centres are to be created throughout the Horn of Africa. SCN will assist in an advisory capacity and subsidise those budgets that are submitted together with approved business plans. Again, this is made possible by generous donations from our donors!

SCN management is currently drawing up an action plan for **ISSC knowledge centres** in Ethiopia and Uganda. In Ethiopia, HoA-REC/N (Addis Ababa University) will play the leading role. In Uganda, we are discussing this subject with Solar Cooking Association. It is SCN's objective to create a framework for the "knowledge centre" concept in the next few years.

In this Newsletter, we will give you an outline of our work on various projects and of our activities in The Netherlands.

Refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya

When we see images on TV of refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya we immediately think of solar cooking.

Kozon (Derk Rijks) has introduced solar cookers and hay baskets on a very large scale in refugee camps in Chad/Darfur.

Inspired by this example and also at the request of Wilde Ganzen, we have submitted a proposal to Stichting Vluchteling and Stichting ZOA. We propose the introduction of a small number of solar cookers on a trial basis and subsequently set up their production in the refugee camps. This will require a solid organisation within the camps that will take charge of the project. We are currently looking into its various aspects.



Refugee camp Chad (photo: D. Rijks, Kozon)

Training at the request of HoA-REC/N

Henk Crietee

A few years ago, Addis Ababa University consolidated all environmental activities in the Horn of Africa under the umbrella of one organisation. This included scientific institutions as well as private civil society



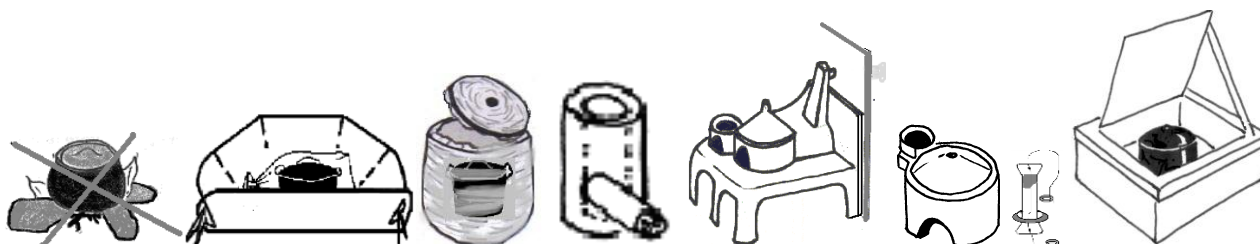
organisations and led to the creation of HoA-REC/N. At present, more than 50 institutions and organisations from Ethiopia, Somalia, (Eritrea), Djibouti, Kenya and Sudan have become HoA-REC/N members.

Its principal objective is to stimulate and coordinate environmental activities "on the ground".

Partnership programmes in the field of renewable energy play a central role. The European Union, the Netherlands Embassy and ICCO (NL) provide financial support. The Netherlands development organization SNV and the German organisation GIZ (German International Development) provide technical support. SCN provides support solely in the field of Integrated Sustainable Solar Cooking.

Ababa. This building is part of a projected eco-village. This will simultaneously promote environmental awareness among the public at large and a number of environmentally friendly technologies such as solar energy, bioenergy and various energy-saving building techniques.

A large project financed by the European Union focuses on the creation of a number of so-called Renewable Energy Technology Centres in Ethiopia. HoA-REC/N takes on the management and coordination of the centres. The NGOs involved in the project, take on the implementation. We provide technical assistance to the Project and some co-financing.



At the beginning of this year, HoA-REC/N invited Clara Thomas and Henk Crietee to provide training in various locations in Northern and Southern Ethiopia. Representatives of participating NGO's, mainly women, learned about ISSC techniques, public promotion and project planning (Clara Thomas), and how to create a small production enterprise (Henk Crietee).

Mesfin Kinfu, from HoA-REC/N, accompanied Clara and Henk and acted as translator and co-trainer. In October Clara and Henk attended a workshop in Ethiopia at the start of the large renewable energy project. Their contribution was important and highly appreciated by the participants.

This photo shows a group of women receiving training. In the background Mesfin Kinfu.



PISDA embarks on its own course

Clara Thomas

Cooperation with HoA-REC/N

This spring PISDA became an official partner of HoA-REC/N and subsequently cooperation with SCN could be completed. SCN and Wilde Ganzen have received PISDA's final reports.

Subsidies allocated by the EU will assist PISDA in further expanding ISSC in the Oromyio district.



Clara Thomas and Henk Crietee at a training session

Reforestation by PISDA

As part of the solar cooking programme, PISDA has for many years now successfully realised replanting / reforestation projects. In those villages where women switch to solar cooking, people are highly motivated to plant and look after the newly planted trees. The village has assigned 'guardians' who prevent the theft of young plantings. Without surveillance, the area would be totally cut down in one single night. PISDA is currently raising funds for replanting. There are also plans to allow women, who cannot afford solar cookers, to participate instead in the replanting of the areas around their village.

Families belonging to Ethiopian churches

A recent request to SCN from the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane came as a gift from heaven for PISDA from a financial point of view. This is a short-term project, which aims to reach thousands of families. SCN immediately forwarded the request to PISDA. An action plan has been established and solar CookKits and hay baskets have been produced. PISDA will start an instruction and training programme in October.

Nel Hessel has left the board after 5 years. During those years, Nel coordinated the PISDA project in Ethiopia. She held training sessions and supervised the project's progress. As of last spring the project is coordinated by HoA-REC/N. PISDA and Solar Cooking The Netherlands extend their sincere thanks to Nel for her dedication and serious commitment!

Solar Cooking in Uganda shows a profit!

Hans Le Noble

Mbarara Production & Distribution Centre

The first two quarters of 2011 have closed with a profit for the Mbarara Production & Distribution Centre! A profit made under its own steam, without subsidies from SCN and Wilde Ganzen! This is what makes us happy and confirms us in our conviction that we are on the right track in choosing a business approach that resulted in a financially independent 'enterprise'. It took four years to reach this goal with financial support from SCN donors and Wilde Ganzen as well as regular advice from SCN.

Over the span of these four years, we received sixteen quarterly reports that showed an ever more cost-covering operation. Subsidies decreased gradually and the results of advice put into practice became more and more evident.

Profits on the Solar Cooking Association Uganda's account, profits for the Mbarara SCA team, profits for the users of energy-saving cooking appliances, each and every day profits for the women who prepare the meals, profits for the children who no longer lose time looking for firewood, profits for the deforestation problem, profits for CO2 emissions, et cetera!



It goes without saying that we have wholeheartedly complimented SCA director, Mr. Mukasa Kawesa on this result. Of course we will gladly continue to provide advice and know-how transfer as he has requested. Indeed, there is always a need, whether here or over there, to work on improvements, to meet changing user demands and to maintain high product and services quality.

Solar Cooking Association Uganda aims to produce and sell 3000 solar CookKit sets in the 2011 financial year. In addition, the Association hopes to sell 2400 Hay baskets, 2500 Lorena stoves and 1500 Rocket stoves (both wood-saving cooking appliances, the Lorena being built-in and the Rocket stove portable), 3000 Water testers (WAPI) as well as quite a number of Solar boxes and Parabolic cookers. At the end of six months, 50% of annual sales have been realised for almost all products and the sale of Rocket stoves is well above expectations.

Of course, there are problems that need to be addressed. A new site has to be found for the production and distribution facility. The present rented accommodation is unsuitable for further growth and the lease may be cancelled at any moment. To be eligible for Carbon Credits, SCA products have to meet high quality requirements that can be certified.

Kampala Distribution Centre

The opening of the Kampala Distribution Centre has been delayed slightly but will take place in October.

Message from the treasurer

Henk Creetee

As at mid-September 2011, income from our own fundraising amounted to € 8,433.41. The average amount for small donations (donations of less than € 500) was € 50.75. More than half of these small gifts came from people who at a party, instead of a present, asked their guests to send a certain amount to Foundation Solar Cooking. We received amounts varying from € 550 to € 2000 per party! Larger donations came from ASN Bank and a few private donors.

All our volunteers do their utmost to keep foundation costs as low as possible.

The financing of our projects in East Africa is proceeding according to plan so far, be it with a few delays. Solar Cooking's ISSC projects are on the rise and new activities are being developed.

Financial support by our foundation for these ISSC activities is again of the utmost importance!

Future Plans: ISSC Knowledge centres in Ethiopia and Uganda

For some time now, our partners in East Africa have been responsible for the coordination and management of their projects. SCN increasingly acts in an advisory capacity and holds training sessions at the request of the partner. Each project is set up as a small ISSC business and its financial support must end after 4 years. This requires all know-how to be present and available locally. SCN has developed information and training materials. These include among others action plans and manuals for use and production as well as promotion/training materials.



Instruction drawings from 'How to Use ISSC'



SCN wants to transfer these materials to HoA-REC/N and SCA so that optimal use can be made of them.

HoA-REC/N for the Horn of Africa, and SCA for Uganda and neighbouring countries, will then be able to become knowledge centres and central coordination points for the benefit of individuals, students, scientists, entrepreneurs, etc.

Clean cooking worldwide

The *Partnership for Clean Indoor Air (PCIA)* is a global network that is developing the most efficient wood-saving cooking appliance with minimum CO₂ emissions and maximum carbon credits compared to the traditional 'three stone cooking fire'. The proposed cooking appliance is a copy of the Rocket Stove, produced and sold by our partners.

PCIA initially focused only on wood-saving cooking appliances. At present, the partnership is open to other techniques such as ISSC. At a PCIA conference in Peru, SCA's Kawesa Mukasa, our partner in Uganda, strongly argued in favour of even cleaner and safer cooking by integrating solar cooking appliances and hay baskets.

An important comment: PCIA is oriented towards massive imports (for example from China) and dissemination (millions). This might well harm local production and hence the local economy.

PCIA counts 450 member organisations worldwide. SCN is a member and receives their Newsletter. The dialogue with PCIA about the importance of local production and social business is getting off the ground.



Wood-saving cooking appliances

Solar Cookers International (SCI) was founded many years ago and is known worldwide. At first, SCI promoted solar cooking exclusively but in recent years, it has switched to ISSC, also based on its experience in many countries.

SCI serves as a Knowledge centre, including a website for all solar cooking initiatives worldwide (www.solarcooking.wikia.com). PISDA and SCA are members of Solar Cookers International as is SCN and publish experiences, project results and new developments on the SCI wikia site. Last spring PCIA and SCI signed a cooperation agreement.

Do you know a service club, organisation, business, foundation that we could contact to sponsor Solar Cooking projects? Let us know. We will be happy to give a presentation!

Wilde Ganzen adds a bonus of 55 % to your contribution.

Your donation of € 25 becomes € 38.75

If you wish to make a donation:

Account number

4111798

**In the name of
Solar Cooking Netherlands
While referring to
Action Wilde Ganzen**

The ANBI tax rule is applicable
Your gift is tax deductible

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Sustainable cooking: it can be done in The Netherlands

It is possible to cook with solar energy in The Netherlands! It might be a nice and new idea for a children's party. All that is needed is any cardboard box coated with aluminium foil. Place a black painted jar (with screw cap and pierced holes) in the box, in a heat-resistant plastic bag.

Of course, a nice small home-made CookKit could also be used. Our website has a CookKit drawing that can be reduced to scale. The CookKit is cut out of cardboard and coated (glued) with aluminium foil.

It is then just a matter of experimenting with the sun: heat water (who has the hottest water?), make apple sauce, etc. The young scientists can measure the temperature with an oven thermometer (Blokker). An exciting experiment of taking and comparing notes! For more information see

[www.solarcooking.nl/ISC/Cookit/gebruik in NL](http://www.solarcooking.nl/ISC/Cookit/gebruik%20in%20NL)



Small CookKit and simple box



**Spotted in
Amsterdam!**

**On a cycling tour:-
How to heat water
for coffee.**

**In a box coated
with glued
aluminium foil!**

Foundation Solar CookIng The Netherlands (SCN)

The foundation has joined forces with renowned development cooperation organisations such as Wilde Ganzen and various organisations committed to promote solar cooking in Africa such as KoZon.

Patron: Herman Wijffels

Board: Clara Thomas, Henk Criete, Marjan Hermans, Hans Le Noble.

Work group: Lianne Faili, Jolien Hessel, Jacomine Immink, Denise Schwartz, Clara Thomas.

Warehouse: Ton de Wit, Jan de Wit

Advisors: Arnold Leufkens, Maarten Schröder, Marjo Vervoorn

Abbreviations:

SCN – Foundation Solar Cooking The Netherlands
SCA – Solar Connect Association (NGO)
PISDA – Partnership for Integrated Sustainable Development Association (NGO)
KoZon – Foundation Cooking with the Sun

HoA-REC/N – Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre/Network
ISSC – Integrated Sustainable Solar Cooking
NGO – Non Governmental Organisation
ZOA – South East Asia (now active on 3 continents)